THE OCTAGON

A Journal of The American Institute of Architects

The Washington Situation

The Seventy-fourth Convention—Second Notice

Technical Services Department—With The Chapters

Volume 14 FEBRUARY 1942 Number 2

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SPOT NEWS

War Housing.

The A.I.A. has been called upon to render signal service in the war housing program. The survey of the profession which The Institute compiled some months ago is again being put to active use. The profession has been assured that its participation in the war housing program will be immediate and vital.

Under date of January 30, the F.W.A. announced that "* * * architects for individual projects would be chosen from names suggested by The Institute * * *. In connection with the selection of architects, Mr. Baird Snyder, Acting Administrator, F.W.A., announced that it is the intention of the F.W.A., immediately upon receiving from the Coordinator of Defense Housing a certificate of need for a specific number of houses at a specified point to request from The American Institute of Architects a panel of local architects resident in or near the specified municipality who, in the opinion of The Institute, would have adequate facilities to design and supervise the construction of the project in question. The Institute has agreed to furnish the names without distinction as between members and non-members of The Institute. From the panel the F.W.A. would select an architect with the understanding that he would associate with an engineer in the undertaking."

The system for the compilation of panels of architects previously adopted, whereby this office sent requests to chapter presidents for each individual housing project is now revised as follows: Under date of February 14th a request has been sent to each chapter president requesting him to compile in collaboration with his executive committee, or committee of selection and in collaboration with the officers of the state association a panel of architects within the chapter area qualified to render service on defense housing projects. These panels will be submitted to this office on February 21st and immediately transmitted to the Federal Works Agency. The panels will indicate the qualifications of the architects in the following manner—by noting A, B or C against the names of the architects.

A—those *now* organized to render complete immediate architectural service on a war housing project.

B—those with *present* potential capacity to render complete architectural service by the addition of engineering and related elements.

C—those qualified to render planning, administrative and supervisory services but not having organizations as indicated under A and B.

It is suggested that those architects whose organizations are not sufficiently comprehensive to warrant primary consideration by the Agency and who are interested in this work, associate themselves with larger firms or form organizations among themselves, notifying the chapters of such organizations in order that the chapter presidents when consulted may be aware of their existence.

These lists when returned from the chapters are immediately transmitted, as received, to the F.W.A.

Under the original system, panels of architects for 35 projects were returned to this office by chapter presidents, and delivered to the F.W.A.

EDMUND R. PURVES
Washington Representative, A.I.A.

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THE OCTAGON

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The Washington Situation

THE true significance of the war that this country is engaged in does not appear to be realized by many of us, despite the measured statements of men who are in positions of authority in this Nation. The country is definitely and irrevocably committed to the prosecution of a war, the declaration of which was not of its choosing. The United States selected neither the time nor place of attack. The war must be won by this country, and the effort of accomplishing this end forecasts a long and arduous task. The military enterprise that has been engaged in so far either by this country or its allies can scarcely be classified as victory.

We have two alternatives. The first—to give little real concern to winning and let our enemies seize and maintain the initiative, which course at best would lead only to a sort of stalemate which would be in itself a defeat. The first alternative is to be discounted immediately. The second alternative is an all-out fight with victory for this country as its goal. This second alternative is undoubtedly already adopted. But our psychology is not yet adjusted to it. We are all somewhat confused and cannot foresee the future and we are worried about our immediate welfare. It is well to point out that if the United States does not win the war, there is no hope for any of us—practitioner, draftsman or student—of pursuing that vocation for which we have spent years of study, labor and thought.

It is to be hoped that the war program will eventually absorb the services of the entire profession and progress has been made in that direction. It must be realized, however, that we cannot all find sufficient work for our offices to tide us through as practicing architects.

There are other outlets of activity. There are the armed services in which many of our profession are now serving. There are doubtless many architects capable and young enough for active duty. In the last war members of the profession gave a splendid account of themselves in the infantry, artillery, air corps and navy and other services. Our roster of distinguished service in that war is gratifying and we are confident that in this present conflict the architect will play an ever more distinguished role. There have appeared instances where the student or younger practitioner seeks to shoulder a T-square rather than a musket. This attitude is slightly incomprehensible to some of the veterans of the last war and doubtless slightly incomprehensible to a country where at the time of writing guns come first, even before building materials.

Housing—Further Notes.

The response on the part of the chapter presidents has been splendid. We have given them little or no time to review the lists (through no fault of this office), and without doubt we have harassed them. They have been most cooperative and forbearing. The success of the entire enterprise depends upon the impartial cooperation of the profession with the Federal Works Agency.

Army.

Under recent order of the War Department, the drafting forces of the District Engineers are not to

be increased and the architect and engineer in private practice are to be more extensively employed. This order of the War Department is a distinct recognition of the value of the service that is rendered by the professional man in private practice.

W.P.B.

The rumored orders for the building industry have not yet appeared. There is some possibility that the orders will never be issued as there is indication that there may not be a sufficient quantity of critical materials about which to issue orders.

Congress.

The primary occupation of your congressman is that of legislator—a maker of laws. For this calling he is well equipped by training, experience and ability. To his position he brings a wealth of knowledge of the needs of his constituency. Occasionally a constituent seeks to increase the congressman's knowledge of his constituency, particularly with regard to the constituent's personal needs. The object of this further enlightenment of the congressman is, to say the least ulterior, although generally the expression of the purpose is frank indeed.

Your congressman works very hard at a rather unenviable task and being on somewhat of a pedestal it is not easy for him to find the avenues of escape open to others in less public walks of life; on occasions the pedestal becomes a pillory.

The congressman's concern for his constituency should be allowed to remain comprehensive in nature as unquestionably he would like to devote much of his very extensive energy to the general betterment of his bailiwick. He usually succeeds in doing so.

Reflect for a moment on the result of each and every constituent urging the congressman to devote his time and energy to the gratification of each and every individual request. Think of the consequences of such an all inclusive solicitation of personal favor. On the other hand, is there any reason why your congressman should get a particular job for you? Have you ever done anything for him? Possibly you voted for him and thereby helped to place him in one of the most difficult and exacting jobs in the country.

In the past few weeks, Congress has shown a great interest in the welfare of the profession and we are indeed very grateful for this recognition.

All this is by way of introduction to saying that if you feel you must write to your congressman to ask him to get a particular job for you alone, please make sure of the real merit of your request.

The Seventy-fourth Convention

SECOND OFFICIAL NOTICE TO MEMBERS

As stated in the January number of The Octagon, the Seventy-fourth Convention of The Institute will be held in Detroit, Michigan, June 23, 24, 25 and 26, 1942.

The National Convention Committee, of which L. C. Dillenback is Chairman, will report to The Board at a meeting in March concerning a convention program which will be in step with the times. It is planned to publish that program, as a preliminary document, in the May number of The Octagon.

Election of Member Delegates

The attention of all chapter officers is called to the procedure for the election and accrediting of member delegates to the convention, as set out in detail in the by-laws under Chapter VI, Article 2, Section 2 (page 21).

The number of member delegates who may represent the corporate members of The Institute in each chapter is based on the number of those members who are in good standing on May 23—thirty days in advance of the opening day of the convention.

Election of State Delegates

The attention of all officers of state association members is called to the procedure for determining the number of state delegates who may be accredited to the convention, as set out in detail in the by-laws of The Institute under Chapter VI, Article 2, Section 3 (page 22).

The number of state delegates who may represent

the state association members of The Institute is based on the number of dues-paying members of the state association member who were in good standing therein on January 1, 1942.

Preliminary Notices Concerning Numbers of Delegates and Votes

Shortly after March 31, The Secretary will send a preliminary notice to the secretary of each chapter, and to the secretary of each state association member, with a copy to the president of each, stating respectively the number of member delegates to which the members of each chapter are entitled as of April 1, 1942; and the number of state delegates to which each state association member is entitled as of January 1, 1942.

These notices will be in the nature of preliminary information for use as practical guides in electing delegates.

Final notices listing member delegates by chapter, and state delegates by state association will appear in the May number of The Octagon.

Offices and Directorships Becoming Vacant

The offices and directorships to be filled by election at the seventy-fourth convention are as follows:

Offices (One-Year Terms):

President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Regional Directorships (Three-Year Terms):

Candidates for regional directorships shall be selected from the members of the regional districts where the vacancies are about to occur. Retiring regional directors are not eligible for immediate re-election, unless serving an unexpired term.

The four regional directors to be elected at the 1942 convention for three-year terms will represent the four districts named below:

Central States District.

States: Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota.

Chapters: Iowa, Kansas, Kansas City, Minnesota, Nebraska, Oklahoma, St. Louis, St. Paul.

Gulf States District.

States: Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Texas.

Chapters: Arkansas, Central Texas, Mississippi, New Orleans, North Louisiana, North Texas, South Texas, Tennessee, West Texas.

Sierra-Nevada District.

States: Arizona, California, Hawaii (Territory of), Nevada.

Chapters: Arizona, Hawaii, Northern California, San Diego, Santa Barbara, Southern California.

South Atlantic District.

States: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia.

Chapters: Alabama, Florida Central, Florida North, Florida South, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, South Georgia, Virginia.

Procedure for Nominating Officers

Nominations of officers may be made by petition of corporate members, or by member delegates or qualified state delegates from the floor of the convention or meeting, or by a nominating committee in the event a nomination is not made from the floor.

Nominations of Officers by Petition:

Nominating petitions for officers must be in writing and filed with The Secretary *on or before May 13, 1942,* forty days prior to the opening day of the convention (June 23, 1942). Not more than one corporate member shall be nominated in any petition, and the petition shall contain only his name, the office to which he is nominated, the signatures of the nominators (who must be corporate members in good standing) and the name of the chapter to which each is assigned.

Each such petition must contain the signatures of five or more corporate members, and a petition or petitions containing the signatures of not less than fifteen corporate members, comprising not less than five corporate members of one chapter, not less than five corporate members of a second chapter, and not less than five corporate members of a third chapter must be filed with The Secretary before the candidate named by the said corporate members is nominated.

Nominations by petition will be reported in The Octagon and presented to the convention by The Secretary.

(*Continued on page 6*)

PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATING REGIONAL DIRECTORS

Nominations by Letter Ballot:

The chapters within a district may jointly agree on a nominee, through their representatives meeting at a regional council if there is a council established in the district, or otherwise, or they may separately select one or more nominees. In any of these events the name of each nominee shall be sent to The Secretary, at The Octagon, *on or before May 13, 1942.*

Upon receipt of the names of such nominees, The Secretary will submit each name so given him from a district to the corporate members of the district who are in good standing, on a letter ballot, which the corporate member who wishes to vote must return to The Secretary within the time stated on the ballot.

The voter also may write in on the ballot and vote for the name of any corporate member in good standing whose name does not appear on the ballot and who is an assigned member of a chapter within the district.

The corporate member receiving the greatest number of votes, as determined by The Secretary from said letter ballots, shall be a nominee for regional director of the district, and he will be nominated for such directorship on the floor of the convention by The Secretary, for voting by the convention.

Nominations from Floor of Convention:

Any accredited member delegate from the regional district which the nominee will represent if elected may propose the name of a corporate member for the directorship, and if the said member is eligible to hold the office and his nomination is seconded by two or more accredited member delegates from the said regional district, then he will be nominated for regional director for that district.

Nominations by Nominating Committee:

In the event a nomination for any regional directorship is not made from the floor, then a nomination therefor will be made by a nominating committee from the floor of the convention at the time set for making such nominations.

OTHER MEETINGS

It is too early to give dates and details of other meetings to be held in Detroit in conjunction with the convention. Information concerning those meetings will appear in the May number of THE OCTAGON.

CHARLES T. INGHAM, *Secretary*

Notice of Special Meeting of The Board of Directors

A special meeting of The Board of Directors of The Institute will be held at The Commodore hotel, New York, N. Y., on March 19, 20, 21 and 22, 1942.

Members and chapters having matters which they wish to bring to the attention of The Board should address communications thereon to The Secretary of The Institute, at The Octagon, for delivery there not later than March 16, as the agenda will be closed as of that date.

Recent Appointments

President Shreve announces the following appointments:

At the December meeting of The Executive Committee, Sylvanus B. Marston of Los Angeles, was elected a member of the Investment and Property Committee to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Gordon B. Kaufmann.

The following Institute members will serve on the Division of Pan-American Affairs of the Committee on Foreign Relations of The American Institute of Architects:

George Harwell Bond, Julian Clarence Levi
Harold R. Sleeper, Leopold Arnaud, *Chairman*

Ex-officio Members

R. H. Shreve, President of the A.I.A.
Philip Goodwin, *Chairman,* Committee on Foreign Relations, A.I.A.

This newly created division will constitute the United States Section of the Permanent Committee for Pan-American Congresses of Architects and will devote its efforts to Pan-American activities in architecture, allied arts and town planning.

Corporate Members Elected

Effective January 10, 1942

Chapter	*Name*
Baltimore	F. Dano Jackley
	Alexander Shaw
Central Illinois	Hamilton Bogart Dox
Central Pennsylvania	Walter Robert Arnold
Central Texas	Joseph Robert Buffler
	Hugo Leipziger
Chicago	*Ernest A. Benkert
Detroit	Daniel Currie Bryant, Robert F. Calder
	Lyle S. Cole, Barry Lewis Frost
	*Robert W. Hubel, *Louis Kamper
	John Kasurin, Paul J. Ketelhut
	Norman Krecke, Charles Babcock McGrew
	Gerald Millington Merritt, Earl G. Meyer
	H. Augustus O'Dell, Eugene DeGolyer Straight
	Clair Alexander Stuchell, Dalton Russell Wells
Florida South	Lawrence Sidney Funke
Hawaii	Alfred Preis
Iowa	Roy Albert Kazebier
	Donald M. McLennan, David Burdette Toenjes
	Chester C. Woodburn, Oscar Griffith Woody
Maine	Ambrose Stevens Higgins
New Jersey	Martin Luther Beck
	John A. Caponé
North Texas	Charles Emery Armstrong
	John Bradfield Danna, Preston Murdoch Geren
	James Eldric Teague
Northwestern Pennsylvania	Erick Albert Shucker
Philadelphia	Roland Taylor Addis
	Charles Lewis Bolton, †*Miles B. Dechant
	John Franklin Dunlap, Howard Carter Hill
	Beryl Price
Pittsburgh	Cameron Redfern Brown
	William Winebiddle Phillips Hart
	Walter G. Prack
	Bernard Wagner
Southern California	William Frederick Ruck
Washington, D. C.	Rhees Evans Burket
	Theodore Weston Dominick
West Virginia	Hassel Thomas Hicks

Effective February 7, 1942

Chapter	*Name*
Alabama	Tom Brown Kirkland
	John David Sweeney
Baltimore	Van Tuyl Hart Bien
Brooklyn	Alfred A. Lama
	Martyn N. Weinstein
Buffalo	Stuart Cary Welch
Cleveland	Stephen Bochkor, Harold Otis Bonfield
	Harold Bennitt Burdick, Ralph Wilfred Cumming
	(William) Phelps Cunningham, Edward Albert Flynn
	Carl Frederic Guenther, John Walker Little
	E. Milton MacMillin, Charles Thomas Masterson
	George Baker Mayer, Sterling Lennox Neale
	Theo V. Nichols, Richard Franklin Outcalt
	Russell Ralph Peck, Samuel Kerness Popkins
	Adolph Paul Scholl, C. G. Thomas
	George Steven Voinovich, David Mollenkopf Ward
	Leon Mondell Worley, Nicholas S. Zajack
Detroit	Samuel Fye Abraham, Lyall Henry Askew
	L. Robert Blakeslee, Frank Somerville Carson
	John Lester Cousins, John Buchanan Gay
	Edgar Doan Giberson, Joseph C. Goddeyne, *Edgar Guy
	Harvey Rice Hoffmaster, *Aloys Frank Herman
	Leo Joseph Hosman, Joseph William Leinweber
	Amedeo Leone, Thomas Whitfield Moss
	Harry George Muehlman, Howard Thomas Simons,
	Harry Chester Vicary, Gardiner C. Vose
	William Charles Zimmermann
Grand Rapids	Arthur J. Zimmermann
Florida South	Robert Murray Little
	Marion Sims Wyeth
New Jersey	Robert A. C. Gilfillan
	Louis Bernard Huesmann, John Frank Osborne
	Maximillian Schneider, Herman M. Turon
	George von Uffel, Jr.
New York	Thomas Dunn, Ferdinand Eiseman
	Irvin Leslie Scott, Karl F. J. Seifert
North Texas	Howard Raymond Meyer
	Geo. Thompson Reynolds, Jr.
Oklahoma	John Leland Benson
Philadelphia	Leon Brown, J. Joshua Fish
	Egerton Kaye Hunter, Louis I. Kahn
	Joseph N. Lacy, Lloyd Malkus, George Warren Neff
	Clyde Shuler, Sylvester Leroy Smith, Adiel Martin Stern
Pittsburgh	Philips Boyer Bown
	Ermes Brunettini, William G. Perry
	Harold L. Schwartz, Hilary D. Watterson
Saint Louis	Oscar Janssen
South Georgia	Francis Louis Abreu
	James Lee Robeson
Tennessee	Percy Benham Shepherd
Washington, D. C.	Carroll Marean Meigs

* Reinstatement. † Deceased.

A Handbook on Urban Redevelopment for Cities in the United States

COMMENT BY WALTER R. MACCORNACK, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON URBAN AND RURAL LAND USE.

The Federal Housing Administration has just isued "A Handbook on Urban Redevelopment for Cities in the United States." Mr. E. S. Draper, Assistant Administrator, makes the following statement in his covering letter which accompanied the release of the Handbook:

"The problem is one that our cities cannot escape, and we believe that local planning and local efforts must underlie any successful solution. To get an adequate program going will require the active interest and support of men who already have given attention to planning programs. To carry through doubtless will require support from many different groups."

The American Institute of Architects is now undertaking to develop a plan to interest the property owners of the United States in a program of post-war construction, the backbone of which will be the redevelopment of American cities. The program is based on the report issued by Mr. Frederick Bigger's Committee published in THE OCTAGON, December, 1941, issue. Mr. Bigger had the major part of the responsibility for writing the Handbook referred to in this letter. The architects are therefore indebted to Mr. Bigger in large part for the development of the principles of the program which it is now endeavoring to formulate.

It is suggested that the various chapters and state societies secure copies of this Handbook and make a careful study of its various sections in order to be prepared to help develop the long-range, post-war reconstruction work contemplated. The activity of the architects in this field will bring them into closer touch with the general public than any means of self-advertising that can be devised.

Massachusetts Board of Registration of Architects

THE members of the Massachusetts Board of Registration of Architects are as follows:

John T. Whitmore, Boston	Five years
Henry J. Tessier, Springfield	Four years
Robert A. Gaston, Jamaica Plain	Three years
Israel T. Almy, Fall River	Two years
Cyrus F. Springall, Malden	One year

When organized the Board will set up its own rules and regulations and in anticipation of this, Mr. Whitmore has been securing data from other state boards relative to their rules and regulations on practice, examination requirements, etc., to utilize in developing procedure.

Mr. Whitmore's address is 50 Congress St., Boston.

The Kate Neal Kinley Memorial Fellowship—1942-1943

By authority of the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois the Committee in charge announces the 11th annual consideration of candidates for the Kate Neal Kinley Memorial Fellowship.

The Fellowship yields the sum of one thousand dollars which is to be used by the recipient toward defraying the expenses of a year's advanced study of the Fine Arts in America or abroad.

Applications should reach the Committee not later than May 1, 1942. Requests for application blanks and instructions should be addressed to Dean Rexford Newcomb, College of Fine and Applied Arts, Room 110, Architecture Building, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois.

The Producers' Council

The headquarters' office of The Council was moved to 815 15th St., N. W., Washington, D. C., on January 1st.

This move will permit The Council to cooperate more effectively with Governmental agencies engaged in the National Defense effort and facilitate the collaboration between The Institute and The Council.

The Department of Technical Services—Notes

By Theodore Irving Coe, Technical Secretary

Emergency Plumbing Standards for Defense Housing.

When it became apparent that there would be a shortage of strategic materials the Division of Defense Housing Coordination investigated possible means of conserving the use of metals in defense housing construction.

The representatives of the National Association of Master Plumbers, and the Journeymen Plumbers and Steamfitters, representing the Plumbing Industry, cooperated with Federal plumbing experts and Public Health officials in an effort to develop standards which would involve the minimum use of critical metals consistent with the safeguarding of sanitary efficiency and public health.

As the result of this collaboration "The Emergency Plumbing Standards for Defense Housing" were adopted and are now made available in a booklet issued by the Division of Defense Housing Coordination, 1600 Eye St., N. W., Washington, D. C.

While there appears to be the possibility the War Production Board will shortly issue a ruling that the granting of priority assistance for privately constructed defense housing will require compliance with these Emergency Plumbing Standards, such a ruling may place architects and local plumbers in the dilemma of attempting to comply with both Federal and local regulations which are in variance with the same.

To avoid this situation it is essential that the new standards receive the approval of local authorities, in localities where defense housing is to be undertaken, at the earliest possible moment.

C. F. Palmer, Coordinator, of the Division of Defense Housing Coordination, has asked assistance of The Institute in securing such action by local authorities and the opportunity is presented for architects to render a worthwhile service to the profession, the plumbing industry and the conservation of strategic and critical materials.

Mr. Palmer calls attention to the fact there are more than 1600 plumbing codes in this country and that in studying a group picked at random it was found an average saving in materials, amounting to 50% of the weight of roughing-in-metals, could be effected through application of the new standards.

Gas Explosions in Buildings.

The disastrous gas explosion, in 1937, in the school building in New London, Texas, was not an isolated instance of damage and loss of life from gas explosions in buildings.

The loss of 294 lives served to widely publicize the details of this explosion, whereas many less spectacular accidents, of this general character, have attracted little more than local attention.

While precautions are usually taken to safeguard the installation of gas service lines and equipment within buildings, conditions outside of the building may arise which, under favorable circumstances, are likely to result in damage, injury and loss of life within the building itself.

Following the New London disaster the local authorities in two cities, in which six gas explosions had occurred in buildings within a period of four months, requested the U. S. Bureau of Mines to inspect their school and theater buildings to determine whether these buildings provided the conditions which contributed to the school explosion.

The Bureau inspected a total of 66 buildings of which 52 were found to have unventilated sub-floor chambers which were deemed largely responsible for the severity of the New London School explosion.

In Information Circular 7142R, a booklet of thirty-two pages entitled "Gas Explosions in Buildings; their Cause and Prevention", the Bureau of Mines has presented the results of its investigation of gas explosions in a number of buildings, with details as to causes and recommendations for the prevention of these hazards to life and property.

Employee Organization for Fire Safety.

While the above booklet is of especial interest to those responsible for the protection of company and industrial organizations, against both peace time fires and war time incendiary bomb hazards, the information and recommendations are in a form to be of particular value and general interest at this time.

Copies may be obtained from the National Fire Protection Asso., 60 Batterymarch St., Boston, Mass.

FHA Insured Mortgages and Enemy Bomb Damage.

It has been announced that the Federal Housing Administration will not require properties damaged by enemy bombs to be repaired for acceptance in exchange for mortgage insurance.

Regulations of the FHA require that, under the contract of mortgage insurance, foreclosed properties must be transferred from the mortgagee to the administrator "undamaged by fire, earthquake, flood, tornado, or waste", before insurance debentures are issued.

A recent ruling holds that damage caused by enemy bombs does not come within the meaning of the term "waste", as used in the regulations, and consequently the FHA will not require the repair of such damage, unless it was caused by fire, and then only to the extent of the fire damage.

It was pointed out, however, that mortgagees as well as property owners in Continental United States will be protected against fire and other losses, resulting from enemy attacks, by the recently created War Insurance Corporation.

No premiums will be charged for this protection, at least for the time being, and no declaration of reports will be required, except in cases of loss or damage.

Accounts, bills, currency, debts, evidences of debt, money, notes, securities, paintings and other objects of art will not be covered by this insurance, and no protection will be available to owners of property who, in the opinion of the President, are unfriendly to the United States.

Maintenance of Interior Marble.

Copies of an informative booklet on the "Maintenance of Interior Marble" by D. W. Kessler, Research Associate, National Bureau of Standards, may be obtained from the National Association of Marble Dealers, 721 Rockefeller Building, Cleveland, Ohio.

The recommendations contained in the booklet are based on the results of over 10,000 laboratory tests and experiments, a comprehensive study of numerous marble installations and the practical experience of persons familiar with maintenance problems.

Earth-Wall Construction.

The recently issued National Bureau of Standards Building Materials and Structures Report BMS 78, on the Structural, Heat-Transfer, and Water-Permeability Properties of Five Earth-Wall Constructions, provides data of information and practical value on a subject which may prove of increasing importance to low-cost housing, where climatic conditions are friendly to this ancient mode of construction improved, as it can be, by modern research and technical development.

ASTM Standards on Mineral Aggregates.

This new publication represents the first special compilation of specifications for, definitions of, and methods of sampling and testing mineral aggregates.

Fifty standards are included in their latest form. While most of the specifications pertain to concrete and concrete aggregates and to road and paving materials there are also standards relating to lime, gypsum, masonry mortar, glass products, waterproofing and roofing materials.

Twenty-nine specifications refer to standard requirements for such materials as concrete aggregates, sand for use in plaster, light-weight aggregates, crushed stone, mineral filler, gravel, etc., while twenty-one standardized methods of sampling and testing are included.

140 pages, 6 x 9 inches, heavy paper cover, copies may be obtained from the American Society for Testing Materials, 260 S. Broad St., Philadelphia, Pa., at $1.25 per copy.

Index to ASTM Standards—1941.

A new Index to ASTM Standards, including Tentative Standards, as of December 1941, is now available.

This publication is essential in using the Society's Book of Standards and its two Supplements for 1940 and 1941, and it is also of value to those who wish to determine whether ASTM has issued standard specifications, test methods, or definitions covering a particular construction material or subject.

Copies may be had from ASTM Headquarters.

Simplification of Structural Steel Shapes.

Architects who are interested in the Simplification of Structural Steel Shapes, adopted by the steel industry at the direction of the Office of Production Management, may obtain a list of the shapes, effective from February 1, 1942, from the American Iron and Steel Institute, 350 Fifth Ave., New York, N. Y., at a cost of 25¢, post paid.

With the Chapters

News Notes from Chapter Secretaries

Arizona.

The regular meeting of the Arizona Chapter was held in Phoenix on January 10.

The principal theme of the meeting was a round-table discussion concerned with what the Architect will do after the war. Several members worked out an outline of the discussion in advance, developing diverse thoughts on the subject purposely to stimulate thinking and argument. In spite of the question mark, which, in the light of current events casts a broad shadow across the future, the consensus of opinion, after the discussion, was that the Architect will practice much as he has in the past, that, as Ruskin has so forcefully put it, he will need friends in high places and his principal client will be the Government.

We observe a number of members in the process of shutting up shop, to go to work for Uncle Sam, directly or indirectly.

F. W. Whittlesey, *Publicity*

Brooklyn.

A very interesting Dinner meeting or *"Civic Night"* was the occasion of the regular monthly meeting of the Brooklyn Chapter. There was a large attendance and a select number of invited guests were greeted, among whom were:

Hon. Charles C. Lockwood, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of New York.

Mr. Edwin H. Thatcher, Chairman Advisory Planning Board of Brooklyn.

Mr. Robert Bennett, of Brooklyn Trust Company.

Mr. Milton Vanderveer of the Home Title Guarantee Company.

Mr. Thos. A. Swift, Executive Secretary of the Brooklyn Down Town Association.

Mr. Joseph W. Catherine, President of the Brooklyn Rotary Club.

Mr. Henry J. Davenport, President of the Down Town Brooklyn Association, and member of the Brooklyn Library Board (guest speaker).

The meeting was called to order by chapter president Joseph Mathieu and expedited with speed, clarity and interest by the presiding officer, to make way for the anticipated informative talks to follow.

The Secretary called attention to the untiring efforts of the A.I.A. and their activity in relation to U. S. Senate Bills 1833 and 1617 for which the Chapter assured its support.

The small house competition of the New York Chapter was assured our participation.

Ralph M. Rice reported on the priorities situation as it affects the profession of architecture.

The President now requested Mr. Rice, Chairman of the current Work Committee to introduce the various guests, all of whom enriched the evening with an effervescent glow of oratory.

The removal of the old elevated structure on the streets of Brooklyn was hailed by all the speakers as offering a rare opportunity to the architects of our Chapter, the boundless practical possibilities in the necessary rehabilitation of such vast areas by having numberless buildings suddenly exposed to view, heretofore hidden beyond vision behind the former unsightly elevated structures.

The speakers also dwelt on the new trend and shifting of population, necessarily resulting in the re-routing of traffic and its consequences to the retail and residential conditions. The natural re-alignment of newly created values, the realization of a new approach for the architect in the re-planning of entire large areas from residential to business, and vice-versa, new consideration of the proposed civic center *ad infinitum,* in short, a Brooklyn reborn.

Max Cantor deplored the fact that only one building in Brooklyn, the Appellate Court, went to an architect of our Chapter and hoped that in the future the Chapter would fare better. Whereupon the president, Joseph Mathieu urged all of those present toward an active approach to get the Brooklyn architects busy on this hopeful future presented by this civic improvement to Brooklyn.

Adolph Mertin, *Secretary*

Central Illinois.

Architects mobilize for the war program.

Our nation is pledged to the task of winning the war. The architectural profession finds itself today functioning in the most widespread catastrophe in history. We must face the problems ahead and we are mobilized to serve the war program.

The specialized technical training and experience

of the architectural profession should be utilized by the various governmental agencies to the maximum extent throughout the entire war program, and the post-war reconstruction period.

Private building is fast becoming extinct for the duration of the war. More and more the commissioning of architectural work is being controlled from Washington. The Institute, representing the profession, should be selected by the governmental agencies to classify the architectural firms or groups of firms of the nation, according to their qualifications, and assign to established firms the responsibility of executing the necessary architectural work for construction nearest their established locality. The locally established building industry could be utilized, and delays and transportation reduced to a minimum. The utilization of the talents, ability and experience of the architects of the nation could accelerate the tremendous program required with economy, efficiency and dispatch, and, at the same time, effect the decentralization program and avoid the bottleneck of the Washington merry-go-round.

The War Production Board has found this same idea necessary to utilize our established production facilities and organizations throughout the nation.

Architects are encouraged to unite their organizations to form groups qualified to undertake large scale defense projects, then contact public officials, Congressmen, controlling agencies, military and naval authorities and impress on them the importance of assigning projects to private architects.

A. N. SCHAEFFER, *Secretary*

Central Pennsylvania.

The Thirty-second Annual Meeting of the Chapter was held in Harrisburg, on January 12, with 15 members present.

President Hasness reviewed the activities for the past year, a year in which the Chapter was particularly active. Seven well attended meetings were held with "fireworks" scheduled for practically every meeting. Emphasis was again placed on our drive for new members, netting the chapter five new Institute members, with two applications pending. Two newly elected members, Messrs. Lynch and Eppleman, were welcomed into the Chapter.

The Special Committee under the chairmanship of Mr. Loescher was particularly commended by the president. It was the duty of this Committee to bring before the proper agencies, the advance effects of the SPAB ruling curtailing building construction. The action taken by this Chapter was forwarded to all chapters, state associations, regional directors, congressmen and representatives. This Committee did such a creditable piece of work that they were requested to extend the scope of their activities to include civilian defense.

JOSEPH L. STEELE, *Secretary*

Grand Rapids.

Fourteen members of the Chapter braved one of the worst blizzards in years to attend the monthly meeting on January 6 at the Association of Commerce Cafeteria in Grand Rapids. The Secretary read a letter of resignation from John Baker, president of the Chapter, which the Chapter accepted with regret. Baker has recently accepted a position with the War Department in Arkansas.

The Chapter unanimously elected vice-president Adrian N. Langius to succeed Baker. Mr. Langius is Director of the Division of Buildings & Construction for the State of Michigan. Warren Rindge was elected vice-president and Mr. Rindge's post as director will be taken by Kenneth Welch.

A motion was passed that all chapter presidents be presented with an Institute emblem upon retirement from office and that this motion be retroactive to include past-presidents still active in the group.

Considerable interest was evidenced in the movement to merge architectural offices to better handle defense work. Harry Mead was appointed chairman of a committee to develop a tentative plan for our Chapter. The motion was unanimously passed to instruct the treasurer to invest in two Defense Bonds, and more, as funds allow.

PAUL FLANAGAN, *Secretary*

Maine.

At the annual meeting held January 8 the members voted to purchase a Defense Bond in the name of the Chapter and of The American Institute of Architects. Thus, if by any chance the Chapter should not exist ten years from now the bond would become the property of The Institute.

JOHN HOWARD STEVENS, *Secretary*